

helped a Vietnam veteran get compensation with the Department of Veterans Affairs for a \$200,000 claim.

Among her many other responsibilities and accomplishments include organizing workshops for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals beneficiaries, and resolving thousands of casework files.

Patricia is also devoted to the humane treatment of animals. She heroically rescued a dog that was hit by a car and abandoned in front of my predecessor's district office, taking the injured dog home and making it a part of her family.

Her coworkers and I have enjoyed working with her and will miss her warm heart and signature elegance. Her compassion, persistence, and dedication have left a lasting mark on thousands of residents in my district and the Los Angeles Harbor Region.

I am sure that I speak for the dozens of people who have worked with Patricia throughout her career in congratulating her upon her retirement and extending our heartfelt gratitude for her remarkable dedication to public service.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RETIREMENT OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SHANE LAKE

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Command Sergeant Major Shane Lake on his retirement from the Oregon Army National Guard.

Born in Farmington, New Mexico Command Sergeant Major Lake enlisted in the United States Army in 1990. Currently, he serves as the State Command Sergeant Major for the Oregon Army National Guard. While serving his country, Command Sergeant Major Lake also worked to earn a Bachelor of Science in Social Science with a minor in Psychology from Portland State University, and works as a Field Sales Engineer in the electronics industry.

Among his countless assignments throughout his exemplary military career, Command Sergeant Major Lake spent multiple overseas deployments to the Middle East and completed a number of humanitarian missions throughout the world. A highly decorated veteran, just some of his service awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal to name a few.

Command Sergeant Major Lake represents our very best that the great state of Oregon and our country have to offer. The State of Oregon, the Oregon National Guard, and his soldiers will miss the experience and leadership he brought to every mission.

I humbly thank Command Sergeant Major Lake for his many years of service to the State of Oregon as well as to our country. May his deserved retirement treat him well.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2ND ANNUAL BARN BLAST

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize the 2nd Annual Barn Blast, a local fundraising event in Leesburg, Virginia, for the INMED Family & Youth Opportunity Center. The INMED Opportunity Center is a program aimed to liberate children from the irreparable damages of hunger, abuse, and insecurity. They strive to equip struggling children with the skills and vision they need to build a future filled with opportunity and hope, and I am grateful for their service to our youth, the next generation of leaders.

INMED Opportunity Center, located in Sterling, Virginia, is a part of a program of INMED Partnerships for Children, an international humanitarian organization, established in 1986. The INMED Partnerships for Children was founded with the goal of tackling the pressing needs of children in the developed and developing world. The Opportunity Center serves as a crucial part of this larger organization as it offers a plethora of programs to support families in need in Loudoun County. Some examples include after-school academic and enrichment programs, summer camps, family education and support, career skills training, homelessness support, and mentoring.

This second annual fundraiser is an event that has garnered a great deal of popularity and community involvement. Located at the Murray Hill Estate in Leesburg, the event features live music, barbecue, dancing, and live and silent auctions. It is entertaining, community events, like the 2nd Annual Barn Blast event, that have helped this organization thrive and build its essential presence in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the 3rd Annual Barn Blast and the INMED Family & Youth Opportunity Center and in thanking them for their commitment and service to our community. The efforts and contributions from the staff, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and our community are truly exemplary, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TOWN OF MILAN, MAY 28, 2017

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a speech I delivered in Milan on May 28, 2017.

Memorial Day. A day of remembrance to our fallen soldiers. A day when all Americans are reminded of those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms. This day is perhaps best honored by the phrase uttered by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg. They gave to the cause of liberty, he said, "their last full measure of devotion."

Memorial Day is significant in that it is an enduring reminder of those who gave their lives for our nation. We live in a time when only a small percentage of American fami-

lies have someone who is serving on either active duty or in the reserves. As such, it is all the more important that we gather together on this solemn day to honor their sacrifice.

So on this day, our obligation is not just to remember. It is also to teach our children and grandchildren that our liberty is more than just the words of the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Those documents are the foundation stones of our system of government and the truth that governments derive their powers from the people and not the other way around. And further that the inalienable rights we enjoy as a free people come from God and not from government.

But none of this would be possible without the sacrifice of those we remember today. Inscribed on statuary at the National Archives Building in Washington is the phrase "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty." We need to constantly remind ourselves that freedom is not free. Our liberties are guaranteed us by our Constitution and Bill of Rights; but they were also made possible by the determination of multiple generations of Americans who answered their nation's call and who defended our liberties to the last breath on the fields of battle.

We stand on the shoulders of the fallen today. We owe them our eternal gratitude; our respect; and that their collective sacrifice is forever etched onto our collective memories.

I recently read a quote attributed to the son of a U.S. soldier killed in Afghanistan. He said of his father: "his life was not taken: it was given to his country."

His life was not taken: it was given to his country. He gave his life to defend our nation, so that others of us can live in freedom and liberty. That truly sums up what we should always remember about those we honor on Memorial Day. May God Bless our fallen soldiers; may God Bless our Veterans; and may God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING NATHAN RILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Riley. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has served his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Nathan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathan led a team in constructing a 52-foot free span truss bridge, first by removing the old, deteriorated wooden bridge, then designing and constructing two concrete revetments, assembling 2,800 pounds of steel trusses, decking the bridge, and having it all laid into place by a 90-ton crane. The project earned Nathan the Eagle

Scout Service Project of the Year award from the Heart of America Council.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Riley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH AND HOUSTON PRIDE WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBTQ Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 17 years since the cruel murder of Matthew Shepherd, a college student from Laramie, Wyoming.

As a country, America has made and continues to make great progress in the area of social equality, as evidenced most dramatically by the seismic shift in public support for marriage equality over the past decade.

Today, supporters of marriage equality dramatically outnumber opponents by 61–35 percent; a near total reversal from 2004, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58–39 percent.

Our country made progress in bringing our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers out of the shadows with the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” which I was proud to support.

Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better.

In April 2015, President Obama issued a landmark Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ persons in the workplace.

This civil rights victory ensures the tax dollars used to pay government contractors support contractors that are committed to equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of sexual orientation.

This legislation marks a major shift from a time when the U.S. Civil Service Commission prohibited the hiring of LGBTQ persons to a time when the Secretary of Defense has selected an openly gay man as his chief of staff.

And we are making progress in realizing the goal of making the H.R. 2282, the “Equality Act of 2017,” the law of the land so LGBTQ people will finally be guaranteed explicit, permanent protection under the nation’s existing civil rights laws against discrimination in vital areas of life, like employment, access to public spaces, housing, credit, education, jury service, and federally-funded programs.

It is unacceptable that in 31 states LGBTQ people can get married on Sunday and remain at risk of being fired or evicted on Monday simply because of who they are.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 48th Anniversary of the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement, where activists such as Frank Kamney led the struggle for the voices of the LGBTQ community to be heard.

Frank Kamney’s courageous demonstrations inspired others to resist mistreatment and we

witnessed in 1969 what happens when a community says enough is enough.

Our country has made progress since the Stonewall uprising of 1969, and with the support of equal rights for all communities by leaders such as President Barack Obama, more and more voices are being heard.

Mr. Speaker, although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law, it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston hosts “Wonderland,” Houston’s Pride Week celebration later this month, from June 18 to 25, 2017.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBTQ community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent.

The Houston LGBTQ community is culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 38 years, since 1979, and promotes the individuality of Houston’s ever-growing LGBTQ community.

The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of a celebration annually attended by more than 600,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

All Americans should be deeply concerned over the increase in violence and acts of hate perpetrated against members of the LGBTQ community we have witnessed in recent months.

Especially troubling is the rise in bigotry and violent crimes against transgender people, particularly transgender women of color.

According to statistics compiled by the Human Rights Campaign, at least 22 transgender people in the United States lost their lives due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded.

Sadly, we are on pace to break this record in 2017, as 11 transgender persons have been killed in the first five months.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Americans to visit Houston during Houston Pride Week to observe how we live out our conviction that “Love Will Conquer Hate.”

Progress is made through the efforts of courageous men and women who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly recognized and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Texas natives such as Sheryl Swoopes, a 3-time WNBA Most Valuable Player and champion for the Houston Comets, and former Houston Mayor Annise Parker.

These leaders have set an example of what can happen when we lift the limits of inequality and support our fellow Americans in their pursuits of their inalienable rights.

Other members of the LGBTQ community whose contributions have enriched American

culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Mandy Carter, 2008 national co-chair of Obama Pride and lifelong activist; Billy Strayhorn the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; Tom Waddell, army medical doctor and Olympic athlete; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination to make America a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBTQ community members.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN WILLIAM PERLSTEIN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 2, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of a uniquely distinguished community leader, Captain William Perlstein, who has served the State of California as a Commander for the Highway Patrol. Bill began his career as a traffic officer in Hayward. He soon combined his career in law enforcement with his love of aviation, and trained to become a flight officer/paramedic, working on a CHP helicopter out of the Golden Gate Division. Subsequently, he became an instructor with the California Highway Patrol Academy and trained individuals on emergency medical procedures. As an instructor, he developed new emergency medical response programs, which helped to save lives across California.

Bill also encouraged transparency in policing and was promoted to work in the California Highway Patrol’s legislative affairs, working to develop cooperation with traffic and law enforcement advisory groups. Bill eventually was promoted to provide technical advice to the California State Legislature and advocate for the California Highway Patrol at the Capitol. In this role, he was able to protect California police officers and ensure equal protection under the law. Bill also managed finances for the California Highway Patrol and provided leadership, guidance, and supervision to area personnel.

Most recently, Bill became Commander for the California Highway Patrol’s Monterey Area. In this role he was able to establish goals, and develop strategies and tactics to keep the Monterey Bay area safe. Bill supervised employees and provided training and area management. He also ingrained himself within the community by joining the several organizations, including becoming a member of the steering committee for the Monterey County Gang Task Force; serving as treasurer of the Monterey County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association; joining the Board of Directors of the Monterey Rape Crisis Center; and participating in the esteemed Leadership Monterey, a program aimed at providing the continuity of community stewardship.

Throughout his entire career, Bill has been dedicated to the safety and welfare of California citizens, including his own family: three wonderful children, Stephen, Matthew and Juliet, and his wife of twenty-four years, Stephanie.